

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** Chairwoman Elsie Arntzen, on March 3, 2009 at 2:30 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Elsie Arntzen, Chairwoman (R)  
Rep. Gary MacLaren, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Arlene Becker (D)  
Rep. Gerald Bennett (R)  
Rep. Robyn Driscoll (D)  
Rep. Bob Ebinger (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)  
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)  
Rep. Scott Reichner (R)  
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)  
Rep. Gordon Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Betsy Hands, Vice Chairwoman (D)  
Rep. Tom Berry (R)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Michael More (R)  
Rep. Diane Sands (D)  
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Katie Butcher, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: SB 57, SB 58, SB 294, SB 296  
Executive Action: SB 34, SB 78, SB 98, SB 215

00:00:03 Call to order  
(Rep. Grinde arrived.)

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 34**

00:01:43 **Motion:** Rep. Driscoll moved that **SB 34 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

00:01:52 Rep. Ebinger  
00:02:05 Rep. Menahan  
00:03:31 Rep. Bennett

00:04:12 **Vote:** Motion failed 9-9 by roll call vote with Rep. Arntzen, Rep. Bennett, Rep. Berry, Rep. Ingraham, Rep. MacLaren, Rep. More, Rep. Reichner, Rep. Stahl, and Rep. Vance voting aye. Rep. Berry, Rep. More, Rep. Stahl and Rep. Sands voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 78**

00:05:57 **Motion:** Rep. Ingraham moved that **SB 78 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

00:06:58 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division  
00:07:21 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
00:07:35 Rep. Ingraham

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 98**

00:08:18 Mr. Kolman

00:09:03 **Motion:** Rep. Hands moved that **SB 98 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

00:09:09 Rep. Becker  
00:09:26 Mr. Kolman  
00:09:45 Rep. Menahan

00:10:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-4 by voice vote with Rep. Becker, Rep. Ingraham, Rep. Stahl, and Rep. Vance voting no. Rep. Stahl, Rep. Sands, Rep. More and Rep. Berry voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 215**

00:12:06 **Motion:** Rep. Ingraham moved that **SB 215 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

00:12:18 Mr. Kolman  
(Rep. More arrived.)

00:13:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Sands, Rep. Berry and Rep. Stahl voted by proxy.

00:14:36 Break  
(Rep. Stahl, Rep. Sands and Rep. Berry arrived.)

00:27:59 Reconvene

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**HEARING ON SB 296**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:28:35 Sen. Jeff Essmann (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 296, Revise newspaper publication requirement for municipalities.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:31:23 Matt Gibson, Missoula Independent

**EXHIBIT**(loh47a01)

00:33:52 Riley Johnson, Montana Newspaper Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:34:22 Sheryl Wood, Montana Association of Counties

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:34:52 Rep. Ingraham

00:35:00 Ms. Wood

00:35:47 Rep. Ingraham

00:35:59 Mr. Gibson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:36:49 Sen. Essmann

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**HEARING ON SB 57**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:38:47 Sen. Kim Gillan (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on  
SB 57, Revise laws governing special districts.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:44:20 Shoots Veis, City Councilman, Ward 3, Billings, Montana

00:46:54 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

**EXHIBIT** (loh47a02)

00:57:57 Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:59:53 Jeff Brandt, Information Technology Division,  
Department of Administration

01:00:28 Debbie Jurcich, Compliance Valuation, Department of  
Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:00:47 Rep. Ingraham

01:01:01 Mr. Blattie

(Chairwoman Arntzen asked Vice Chairman MacLaren to take over as  
temporary chairman.)

01:08:26 Rep. Ingraham

01:08:35 Mr. Bran

01:09:49 Rep. Reinhart

01:10:21 Mr. Blattie

01:13:49 Rep. Stahl

01:14:32 Mr. Blattie

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:16:46 Sen. Gillan

**HEARING ON SB 58**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:19:27 Sen. Kim Gillan (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on  
SB 58, Revise local government laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:22:27 Bob Gilbert, City of Glendive, Dawson County, Rosebud  
County, Musselshell County, City of Roundup  
01:23:04 Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns  
01:25:21 Steve Yeakel, Montana Independent Bankers  
01:26:20 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties  
01:29:10 Steve Turkiewicz, Montana Bankers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:29:46 Jeff Brandt, Information Technology Division,  
Department of Administration  
01:30:23 Debbie Jurcich, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:30:53 Rep. Ingraham  
01:32:03 Mr. Blattie  
01:34:06 Rep. Ingraham  
01:34:11 Mr. Brandt  
01:35:52 Mr. Blattie  
01:36:45 Rep. Ingraham

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:37:17 Sen. Gillan

**HEARING ON SB 294**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:39:46 Sen. Kim Gillan (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on  
SB 294, Include roads as undertaking for municipal  
revenue bonds.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:42:07 Shoots Veis, City Councilman, Ward 3, Billings, Montana

01:45:45 Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns  
01:48:16 Rick Hill, Montana Building Industry Association  
01:49:22 Joe Roberts, Montana Association of Realtors  
01:49:51 Ed Bartlett, Billings Chamber of Commerce

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:50:37 Rep. Ingraham  
01:50:58 Mr. Hansen  
01:53:16 Vice Chairman MacLaren  
01:53:39 Mr. Veis  
01:56:15 Vice Chairman MacLaren  
01:56:50 Mr. Hansen

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:59:18 Sen. Gillan

**ADJOURNMENT**

02:02:17 Adjournment

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Katie Butcher, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([loh47aad.pdf](#))**